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S E C R E T MANAMA 000524

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EB/ECS/ESP:GLASS, S/CT, IO/PHO:PEREZ, AND  
NEA/ARP  
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL AUFHAUSER, OFAC: NEWCOMB AND  
TERRORIST FINANCING TASK FORCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/2029

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [CVIS](#) [KSEP](#) [KVPR](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORISM FINANCING - ZINDANI: ENFORCING UN  
SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 79184

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Robert S. Ford for  
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) On April 12, Charge delivered reftel demarche to  
Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Abdelghaffar requesting  
that the GOB redouble its efforts to locate and freeze all  
assets linked to Yemeni cleric Shaikh Zindani.

[1](#)2. (C) Minister Abdelghaffar seemed somewhat surprised that  
Zindani had been linked to terrorist activities and Al Qaeda.

The Minister firmly asserted that Zindani is first and  
foremost a scholar. He recalled when Zindani originally came  
to Saudi Arabia and traveled the region holding seminars on  
peaceful humanitarian subjects. Minister Abdelghaffar  
interrupted Charge several times asking if the USG was sure  
of its information on Zindani. He reminded the Charge that  
the USG had used unreliable Israeli intelligence sources in  
the past. Charge assured the Minister that the information  
on Zindani was accurate. Charge specifically requested that  
the GOB prevent Zindani's entry into Bahrain in order to  
hinder his fundraising capabilities for terrorist activities.

The Minister said he would prevent Zindani's entry into  
Bahrain but highly doubted that Zindani would be traveling  
through the region.

FORD